

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLOFIELD AND FLEGG

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

for the year

1948.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JURY

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Council Offices,

ACLE.

February, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Rural District Council
of Blofield and Flegg.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to present our Annual Report for the
year nineteen hundred and forty-eight.

Attention is drawn to the seasonal movement of the
population especially during the summer months. People are attracted
to the Coastal Area, the Rivers and the Broads.

The district remains chiefly agricultural in character.
Nevertheless, this only places greater importance on the efforts
of the Rural District Council to provide mains water supply in all
parishes of the district and sewerage schemes to seven of the larger
villages at present without sewers.

The provision of mains water as provided for in proposals
already submitted to the Ministry of Health would materially assist
in improving the standard of health and well-being of the community.

Careful consideration of the facts and figures contained
in this report show that the health of the district has been
maintained on a level comparable with other years.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	74,774
Population (estimated resident)	31,470
Number of premises	11143.
Rateable value (1st April, 1948)...	£121,601
Product of a penny rate	£492.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Total. Male. Female.

Live births:-

Legitimate	448	247	201
Illegitimate	16	5	11
Totals	<u>464</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>212</u>

Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 14.74

Stillbirths:- 10 5 5

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births: 21.09

Deaths:- 288 152 136

Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 9.15

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis Nil.
Other maternal causes Nil.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

Legitimate	13	9	4
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Totals	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 48
Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 3
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) -

The births in 1948 were 252 Males and 212 Females, a total of 464, against a total of 553 births in the year 1947, making a decrease of 89 births.

The birthrate in 1948 was 14.74 as against 18.80 in the year 1947. The birthrate for England and Wales for 1948 was 17.9.

The deaths during the year were less in number and the deathrate was 9.15 as compared with 12.41 for the year 1947 and 10.8 deathrate per thousand of population for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality rate still remains comparatively low and with a total of 14 deaths of children under one year of age shows a decrease of four on last year's figure.

The following table gives the causes of death in 1948:-
(Figures given by Registrar-General).

Causes of death	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system	7	5	12
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	1	3
Syphilitic diseases	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-
Measles	1	-	1
Acute inf: enceph:	-	-	-
Cancer of buc: cav: & oesoph: (M) uterus (F)	1	3	4
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	5	8
Cancer of breast	-	8	8
Cancer of all other sites	17	11	28
Diabetes	2	3	5
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	12	13	25
Heart diseases	44	35	79
Other diseases of circ. system	9	6	15
Bronchitis	6	6	12
Pneumonia	3	9	12
Other resp: dis:	3	3	6
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	2	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	1	3
Other digestive diseases	7	1	8
Nephritis	3	-	3
Premature birth	2	-	2
Con: mal: birth inj: infant dis:	2	2	4
Suicide	1	1	2
Road traffic accidents	3	1	4
Other violent causes	2	1	3
All other causes	19	19	38
Totals	152	136	288

Analysis of Total Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1948 in Age Groups

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over	Totals 1948	Totals 1947
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	8	6	43	3	-	-	-	-	-	63	15
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	9	6
Pneumonia	6	1	2	-	-	11	1	1	1	3	6	5	37	29
Paratyphoid Fever	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fev.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	4
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	1	1	3	7	2	21	20
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	4
Encephalitis Leth.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	9	33	35	49	61	262	45	14	14	-	-	-	522	31
Whooping Cough	5	11	24	19	11	41	2	1	2	1	2	1	120	101
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	2
Ophthalmia Neon.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	5	1	1	-	9	6
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	22	46	64	76	78	361	57	18	26	11	23	11	793	230

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives an analysis of cases of tuberculosis notified during 1948.

Age Periods	Notifications					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	1	-	1	-	1	1
5 - 15 years	2	1	3	3	2	5
15 - 25 years	4	2	6	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	7	4	11	-	1	1
35 - 45 years	5	3	8	-	1	1
45 - 55 years	4	4	8	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	2	3	5	1	-	1
65 & over	2	2	4	1	-	1
Totals	27	19	46	5	5	10

Included in the above are three cases which were transferred to the District.

The following table gives an analysis of deaths due to tuberculosis during 1948.

Age Periods	Deaths					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	1	1
5 - 15 years	1	-	1	-	1	1
15 - 25 years	2	1	3	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	2	-	2	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	2	-	2	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	5	1	6	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	2	2	4	-	-	-
65 and over	2	1	3	-	-	-
Totals	16	5	21	-	1	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Of the thirty-three parishes comprising the Rural District, seven parishes have a mains supply available and two parishes have part of the parish supplied with mains water.

The quality of the water is uncertain, due to the absence of sewerage schemes in all but two of the parishes. During the year fourteen water samples were reported on as unfit.

During the year under review the level in the wells in the district was generally lower during dry periods than was said to be the case in previous years. No actual complaints of shortage of water were made.

The water supply at Brundall continues to be chlorinated. Samples taken have given satisfactory results from bacteriological examinations and chemical analysis.

No further progress is apparent concerning the Council's major water schemes.

This means that approximately 6,500 premises in the district are without a mains water supply in or on the premises concerned and included in this number is approximately 500 premises whose inhabitants go to a standpipe.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year under review, no advance is apparent in the Council's efforts to provide sewerage schemes for the parishes of Ormesby, Hemsby, Martham, Acle, Brundall, Blofield and parts of Thorpe.

In addition, consideration has been given and in addition it has been requested that sewerage for the parish of Winterton be given the same priority as Ormesby, Hemsby and Martham.

With the provision of mains water and sewerage in these larger villages it is considered that opportunities will be available for the expansion of suitable trades, thus providing employment for local residents.

HOUSING.

The years of inactivity in repair and renewal of houses is evident in the present housing situation.

Not only are many new houses needed but many of the existing dwellings are urgently in need of modernising.

We suggest that great care is needed in the siting of the new houses for reason of maintaining as much of the wages for food as is possible. Higher rents, coupled with travelling expenses, mean less money available for nutrition.

The temporary dwellings which are situated along the coast and rivers continue to create problems. These temporary dwellings are being used either as permanent houses all the year round or as weekly furnished huts in the summer months.

The absence of proper roads and path approaches, the absence of water supply and drainage, and pail closet sanitation coupled with the absence of control on the number of persons occupying these bungalows contribute to the present problems, which do not appear to be covered by present legislation.

From time to time dwellings have been visited which structurally are reaching the worn-out stage. This structural deterioration coupled in many cases with the absence of a proper drainage system and a communal water supply by means of a well gives rise to living conditions which cannot benefit the health of the inhabitants.

We are of the opinion that there are a number of properties throughout the district which are not in all respects fit for human habitation and cannot be rendered fit at a reasonable cost.

As the housing shortage gets less acute we are of the opinion that the unfit dwellings should be demolished and alternative housing accommodation provided.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Further extensions to the scavenging scheme were made as vehicles became available. The Council decided that scavenging should be made a General Rate to support the efforts made to provide collections throughout the district and so help to eliminate possible sources of danger to public health, particularly where deposits take place near shallow wells.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

Supervision of food depots, shops and premises where food is prepared for sale has continued.

These visits and examinations of particular foods have resulted in a variety of foodstuffs being condemned due to disease or otherwise being unwholesome.

The duties connected with the protection of the public food supply are of the greatest importance, and it is satisfactory to both the Council and their Officers that the protection of the health of the population of the district has been maintained by the efforts of these Officers engaged in this valuable public service.

Attention is drawn to the sale of ice-cream with particular reference to the itinerant vendor. As this is a rural area with attractions for holiday-makers, it is obvious that these travelling salesmen can take every advantage of the fact that the sale of ice-cream from a vehicle is permissible without registration of the vehicle with the local authority.

This means that the Officers concerned with the inspection and supervision of the food supplies have a very difficult task to keep a check on the quality and cleanliness of ice-cream sold from vehicles. The area of the district covers approximately one hundred and twenty square miles and such vehicles can come and go as it suits the pleasure of the salesman.

As ice-cream is an attraction for children of all ages, we consider that there is a need for increased control of the vendor who sells from a vehicle of any kind.

GENERAL.

The general standard of the health of the District has been maintained in spite of the movement of population throughout the year.

This is all the more commendable when due regard is had to the absence in some areas of public services usually found in all urban areas with particular emphasis on sewerage and water services.

This year saw the introduction of the National Health Act and a re-organisation of the Hospital services. Cases of infectious diseases were removed to the Isolation Hospital where necessary and disinfection of the premises carried out as required.

In conclusion, we acknowledge the co-operation of the Council, Officers and all those concerned with the maintenance of the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the area during the year under review.

We are,

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

J. D. McKELVIE,

T. W. E. ROYDEN.

Medical Officers of Health.